

meaningful in a word processing context, you would put a W at the "WORD-PROCESSING:" prompt.

NOTE: If there is an output transform on a field, the function code is applied to the field after it has been transformed. In most cases, if a field has an output transform, you should therefore use the syntax `FUNCTION_NAME(INTERNAL(FIELD_NAME))`, rather than `FUNCTION_NAME(FIELD_NAME)`.

A function can also be defined as taking no arguments. This is very similar to the special variables in M like \$I and \$H. For example, you could define a function like BELL as follows:

```
Select COMPUTED-FIELD FUNCTION: BELL
  ARE YOU ADDING A NEW COMPUTED-FIELD FUNCTION? Y <RET>  (YES)
MUMPS CODE: SET X=$C(7) <RET>      EXPLANATION: CAUSES A 'BEEP' TO OCCUR
ON OUTPUT <RET>    DATE-VALUED: NO
NUMBER OF ARGUMENTS: 0
WORD-PROCESSING: <RET>
```

Users could then embed "beeps" in output templates by entering:

```
FIRST PRINT FIELD: BELL
```

NOTE: No parentheses are shown for a function with no arguments.

You can delete a function in the usual way by deleting the NAME of the function. Such deletions do not harm any computed fields that already have been created using the function. However, you may not edit the computed field unless you remove reference to the deleted function.

WARNING: Due to concatenation, do not use IF, FOR or QUIT statements when defining functions. Also, any variables you introduce within a function's code (but not X, X1, etc.) should be NEWed.

The Function file already contains several functions. Consult the "VA FileMan Functions" chapter of the *VA FileMan Advanced User Manual* for a description of the functions exported with VA FileMan.